CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PHILIPPINES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, HIS EXCELLENCY FIDEL V. RAMOS, CONCERNING THE RECENT FRENCH NUCLEAR TEST

I have the honour to communicate to you the attached statement of His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos, President of the Philippines, concerning the recent French nuclear test.

I should be grateful if the above-mentioned statement could be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Lilia R. Bautista
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.95-63699

STATEMENT OF
H.E. PRESIDENT FIDEL V. RAMOS OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON THE NUCLEAR TEST BY FRANCE

06 September 1995

I AM PROFOUNDLY DISAPPOINTED BY THE NEWS THAT FRANCE, IN UTTER DISREGARD OF THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY MANY COUNTRIES AND IGNORING THE APPEALS OF THE COUNTRIES THAT STAND TO BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY ITS ACTION, PROCEEDED WITH ITS FIRST NUCLEAR TEST AT THE MURUROA ATOLL.

FRANCE HAS DEALT A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE CAUSE OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND HAS SEVERELY DAMAGED THE CREDIBILITY OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY WHICH WAS EXTENDED INDEFINITELY LAST MAY.

THE PHILIPPINES IS COMMITTED TO NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND IS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE CONDUCT OF ANY NUCLEAR TESTS, CONSCIOUS OF THE SERIOUS MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN COSTS. I HAVE REPEATEDLY APPEALED TO PRESIDENT CHIRAC TO RECONSIDER AND CANCEL THE PLANNED TESTS. I AM DEEPLY SADDENED THAT HE HAS NOT HEEDED MY, AND, OTHER LEADERS' APPEAL.

FRANCE SERVED AS A BEACON WHEN IT LED OTHER NUCLEAR-WEAPONS STATES IN OBSERVING THE MORATORIUM ON NUCLEAR TESTING. NOW, FRANCE HAS DEEPLY DISILLUSIONED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BY TURNING ITS BACK ON ITS PREVIOUS RESTRAINT AND PROCEEDING WITH THE TESTS.

THE PHILIPPINES WILL SUSTAIN ITS INITIATIVES IN LEADING THE GROUP OF 77 AT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FORA TO PROTEST NUCLEAR TESTING BY ANY NATION. WE AGAIN CALL ON FRANCE TO RESPECT INTERNATIONAL OPINION AND HEED THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY COUNTRIES IN THE PACIFIC RIM, WHICH ARE MOST VULNERABLE TO SUCH TESTS, BY ALTOGETHER CANCELING THE REMAINING TESTS.